

**MINUTES OF THE  
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL  
September 10, 2014  
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA  
10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Jason Coley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Commissioner Walter Gibson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jimmy Burnsed, Jason Coley, Ken Lee, Walter Gibson, Chap Bennett, Charles Wilson, Clyde Taylor, Shaw McVeigh, Jimmy Starline, Craig Root, Sean Register, William Miller, Dan Coty, David Boland, Margaret Evans, Herb Jones, Priscilla D. Thomas, John Morrissey, Reggie Loper, Chris Blaine, and Pat Bazemore.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Allen Brown, Harold Fowler, Jim Thomas, Linda Barker, Edna Jackson, Jan Moore, Julie Martin, Kelly Spratt, Hugh Hodge, J.C. Warren, Donald Lovette, Tom Ratcliffe, Robert Long, Matthew Barrow, And Gwendolyn Davis.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clarence Knight, Camden County; Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

**GUESTS:** Rick Gardner, Bryan County; Shauntia Lewis, Glynn County; Dina McKain, Fort Stewart; Mayor Daisy Pray, Walthourville; Sandra Rayson, Woodbine; Clark Byron, Savannah CEO; Drew Hunt, Savannah Chamber; Jennifer Fordham, DCA; Doug Hooker, Atlanta Regional Commission; Anna Chafin, Bryan Development Authority; and Joe Parker, Jr., Freelance Reporter.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director, William Compton, Grant Specialists; William Steele, Economic Development Intern; Beatrice Soler, Senior Planner; Stephen Brown, GIS Analyst/Planner; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Eric Landon, Senior Planner II; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Vice Chairman Coley requested approval of the minutes from the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Herb Jones  
**Second:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Approval of Changes to the CRC Employee Handbook** – *(See attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns referred members to the yellow handout and highlighted the major changes. A motion was made to approve the Changes to the CRC Employee Handbook as presented.

**Motion:** Chairman Jimmy Burnsed  
**Second:** Priscilla Thomas  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Changes to Coastal Area District Development Authority (CADD) Bylaws** – *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* CADD Board Member Craig Root provided background information on CADD, a component unit of the CRC, for new council members. Mr. Root referred members to the tan handout and explained the reason for the update. A motion was made to approve the changes to the CADD Bylaws.

**Motion:** Chairman Jimmy Burnsed  
**Second:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Vote:** Passed  
**Abstained:** Craig Root (CADD Board Member)

**Approval of Authorizing Resolutions under 5316 and 5317 for Public Transportation Assistance:** *(See Attachments 3 and 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns referred members to the handouts; these resolutions must be approved each year in order to apply for the grants. A motion was made to approve the Resolutions as presented.

**Motion:** Shaw McVeigh  
**Second:** Chairman Jimmy Burnsed  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Adoption of 2015-2020 Regional Work Program Update:** *(See Attachment 5, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Lupita McClenning, Planning & Government Services Director reminded Council members they had approved the update for transmittal to DCA for review on May 14<sup>th</sup>. DCA has since reviewed and found that it meets all the requirements of Regional Planning Standards and is ready for Council adoption. A motion was made to adopt the 2015-2020 Regional Work Program update.

**Motion:** Dan Coty  
**Second:** Sean Register  
**Vote:** Unanimous

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Great Promise** Partnership - Due to a family medical emergency, Mr. Mike Beatty was unable to attend and his presentation will be rescheduled.

**Desalinization** –Mr. Ali Kalantar, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Chester Engineers and President of Chester International provided a Powerpoint overview of their company. With over 100 years of experience, Chester Engineers provides a multitude of engineering services for municipal and industrial clients across the globe. Core practice areas include water, wastewater, civil site design, asset management, operations and maintenance, program and construction management, transaction advisory services and many more.

**Regional GIS** – *(See Attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Hunter Key provided a PowerPoint presentation on Regional GIS. The purpose of a Regional GIS is to leverage software, hardware, and people so that regardless of a county size or population, enterprise access to jurisdictional GIS data is available beyond core users. The GARC entered into an Enterprise License Agreement with ESRI which allows each regional commission to purchase software at a significantly reduced rate. Mr. Key presented a demo of work recently completed for the City of Tybee Island. Tybee did not have the necessary software or GIS devices and paid a little under \$5,000 for set-up and hosting, and now is down to a yearly hosting fee. If Tybee had to purchase all the software, hardware, and licenses, it would have cost them at least \$35,000. The benefits of the Regional GIS is that a city/county can contract with the regional commission for how much of the service they would like to receive, they can also determine how much information that would like to be available to the public, and what needs to be available for city/county worker use only. To request a demo for your city/county, please contact Hunter at [hkey@crc.ga.gov](mailto:hkey@crc.ga.gov)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Update on GARC** – The GARC Annual Conference will be held in November at the King and Prince. Additional information to follow next month as the event gets closer.

**Update on LSEGA** – Mr. David Boland reported they are still accepting applications for the 2015 Class and the goal is to have participants from all 10 counties. Tuition is \$1,750 and payments can be made. Once applications have been submitted, the applicant receives additional information about the classes. Alumni communication has been turned over to the CRC; Teresa Townsend and Lupita McClenning are doing a great job. The first session of 2015 will be held at the Reynolds Mansion on Sapelo Island.

**DRI Reports:** None.

**Project Status Reports** - *(See Attachments 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

**CADDA Report:** No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 12, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Chairman Thomas was unable to attend the meeting due to a commitment with the Governor.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Our auditors just completed their field audit a week ago. During the exit interview, they indicated there were no findings or significant deficiencies. However, they did recommend that we provide the council with monthly financial reports on all of our departments, as well as agency wide. This information is now included in the Finance Dept. Status Report. The Audit will be presented at our November meeting.
- Have been working with Terry Ball, GEMA, and have signed an agreement (for the second year) for the use of our transit vehicle for evacuation services during an emergency. A telephone drill will be conducted this Friday.
- Insurance renewals on both of our building are stable or less than last year.
- Currently have three groups looking at our Brunswick building; hope to have someone in it shortly.
- 9/11 anniversary is tomorrow; take a moment to remember.
- GARC Annual Conference will be held November 5 – 7 at the King and Prince. This year the CRC is putting together a golf tournament to help support our Home Delivered Meal Program, which currently has 630 individuals on the waiting list. Looking for sponsors for the tournament and golfers. If you are interested in either, please see me after the meeting.
- The GA Dept. of Audits sent out their final report, which was emailed to you. They summarized our formal response, which was not a fair representation. Jim and I pre-empted this by sending out a letter to our legislators including our formal response to the Auditors. I've spoken to several of our legislators and I encourage you to do the same. All their recommendations would have been completed today; however the

GARC has decided to do a travel policy statewide and it is being worked on by a committee. The GARC also met with DCA last week and formed a committee to work on revising the score card. There was a brief discussion on the comments in the audit and how it was conducted. It was also noted that the CRC only receives 15%-20% in state funds and 80% in federal and that the federal agencies look at our data each year and have not noted any problems.

- Fort Stewart Support Program – The Feds indicated there would be no impact if they cut 16,000 soldiers from Fort Stewart. The Chairman and I wrote a letter disputing that claim and outlined the devastating impact it would have on our region. Mr. Ron Elliot, Public Affairs, Fort Stewart stated that everyone was under the assumption that Fort Stewart/Hunter Army is such an important part of the military that it would not be affected, and only a couple hundred comments were received. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, they will be holding a community listening session, and the pentagon will be there to listen to comments before decisions are made. Once the time and place for the session has been confirmed, information will be sent out and it is hoped that the place will be packed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**